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Title: Need to start operation of Air India/Air India Express flights from Madurai International Airport, Tamil Nadu to Dubai, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

SHRI MANICKA TAGORE (VIRUDHUNAGAR): Madurai Airport, in Tamilnadu has been recently upgraded to that of international standards. Only few flights from Madurai Airport to Colombo are being operated by Spice Jet and Mihin Lanka. But most of the International flights for which tickets are being issued by Madurai Agents particularly for the Gulf countries and South East Asia are originating from nearby Tiruchi Airport. The people of southern districts of Tamilnadu have been repeatedly demanding to commence a passenger service from Madurai to Singapore, Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia and Dubai etc., but their requests have not been acceded to by the Government so far. Further, it is to be noted that foreign airlines M/s Mihin Lanka is earning profit by operating international flights from Madurai airport. Our national carrier Air India/Air India Express is conspicuous by its absence in the International sector out of Madurai Airport.

In view of the above, I urge upon the Union Government that suitable action could be taken to commence passenger services by Air India/Air India Express from Madurai International Airport to Madurai-Dubai-Madurai, Madurai-Singapore-Madurai, Madurai-Kuala Lumpur-Madurai and from Madurai to Gulf countries with appropriate bilateral agreements with these countries for operating on the specified sectors at the earliest.